

Gray Matters

Official Publication Of The Association Of International Seniors Quartet Champions

August 2003



Bud Haggard, Tenor Carl Taylor, Lead Bill Woodward, Bass Ken Buckner, Bari

The Barons

2003 International Senior Quartet Champions

It's about time! Formed in 1972, the Barons showed what dedication to quartet singing can do. After starting their senior quartet competitions in 1998, and placing 11th in 2000, 9th in 2001, 2nd in 2002 they won the Gold in Albuquerque with a wonderful set which included a great version of "Fortune In Dreams. The quartet is looking forward to their year as Champions and have vowed to "do everything we can to promote our wonderful style of music." Congratulations fellas. The AISQC welcomes you!

Presidential Notes

Pete Tyree

At this writing your Board of Directors has been fairly busy moving things along on issues confronting us on the Annual Show at Midwinter and our involvement with same. We have made a request through Roger Lewis to have our show included in the cost of the convention or something to that effect. He in turn has been anticipating our request and is making a proposal to his Board that a "cross-functional task force" be created to pursue, not only the senior activities at the midwinter, but the use of seniors in other manners throughout the year. Many of you must have received the document asking for reaction to this concept. He was ahead of us on this issue. We are getting the attention we need, I think? We certainly will stay close to this activity.

We still need a volunteer as show chairman for the Biloxi show. Reed gave us a great show last year but with regret indicated that he is going to be busy next year. There has been a precedent set in quality that we need to maintain but I am sure that we can continue to provide top quality shows with our current format. I am considering any offers to help us next year as AISQC Show Chairman. How about it?

Our board has made a recommendation to the Society Board to keep the "medal count" in the competing quartets as they are at two. There has been talk of reducing it to one, I guess? Our board would likely let it go to three, if needed, as it doesn't seem to make that much difference, as you become a senior.

All for now. Keep the old guys singing.



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Note to Reed and...

In Seventh Heaven -- Joe Liles

Your ideas for the show and the really great script you wrote gave us all something to be proud of and to enjoy performing. I was really proud of the AISQC chorus and quartets. You guys really worked hard to pull our songs together and perform them well. You are a smart and talented bunch of singers!! I love being with you. This has brought a lot of joy and happiness to my life, just being involved with you.

A huge "thank you" also goes to our special master of technology, Jim Richards, for piecing together the learning tape and actually correcting some of the notes electronically. What a treasure we have in Jim. And no one is more dedicated to what we are about.

Thanks, Mel, for helping in getting the chorus all tuned up on the tag to the opener.

Looking forward to Biloxi!!!!

AISQC Recommendations to Roger Lewis

Pete Tyrre

As a follow-up to our discussion in Florida concerning issues with the AISQC show, the future of the "Senior Quartet", the midwinter meeting and the two issues confronting you and the Society Board on "gold medals" in competing quartets and a senior page in the Harmonizer, I have the following consensus from the AISQC Board:

1. AISQC Show and the midwinter convention

AISQC would like to see the Friday afternoon Seniors Show embraced by the Society as an official function of the midwinter meeting and the tickets included in the registration.

Other thoughts that came forth as this was discussed are that the Society might well put more emphasis on the midwinter meeting as a time for the seniors. This would mean the creation of more events that seniors might become involved in, especially if the meetings were ALWAYS held in a warm climate. Albuquerque was a wee bit cool. A midwinter meeting ways and means committee might be in order. We certainly support this idea.

2. Previous gold medals in competing quartets

Many of our folks say that the status quo is acceptable. However, they also seem to feel that the seniors are not as likely to come up with a "ringer" after they get to the average age of 60. Some even said let it be wide open as long as the quartet changes two members and becomes a new quartet.

The younger set should likely stay at two medals or the next move will be to no gold medals at all. Status quo is our recommendation.

3. Seniors Page in Harmonizer

This is a great idea Roger; I wish that I had thought of it. We produce "Gray Matters", our own bulletin now and this could be easily incorporated into the Harmonizer and might even set the stage for the increase in emphasis on seniors at the midwinter.

Thanks for asking us to comment on these issues. I know that you guys get a lot of pressure to make all kinds of changes in our society. We hope that the above thinking helps in your deliberations.

Goin' to Montreal? Griff is trying to get enough interest to have a get-together in Montreal if there is enough interest. Maybe just to meet for snacks and a drink. All who might be interested -- email Griff (MGriff0528@aol.com).

Griff is also putting together a buffet meal following the Seniors Contest in Biloxi. We can get a good meal and meet and greet our new champs for around \$15.00 and save having to pay \$500-600 for stale chips and dip. It will be in the Grand Casino!

Griff still has a couple of Albuquerque AISQC show videos @ \$15.

One More Time has had a couple of reunions over lunch since our Lead, Milt Christensen, moved back to Salt Lake City from Hawaii. It is great to sing with that "Old Quartet of Mine." We are all in good health. Baritone, Bob Evans, recently had a hip replacement and he still has two bad knees but he is getting around. Incidentally, our reunions have included some singing and we are all amazed that it still sounds pretty darn good! Jimmy Wheeler

Oktoberfest with Harmony

Harmony, 2001 champs, Darryl Flinn, Reed Sampson, Rudy Zarling, and Joe Liles, will host a tour to Germany, October 2-13, 2003. The tour is being offered by Harmony Travel, the Society's travel agency. The tour includes the one and only Oktoberfest in Munich, Bavarian and Austrian Alps, Lake Constance, the Black Forest, and the Alsatian Wine Route.

Complete information and itinerary are available at www.harmony-travel.com.

AISQC Quartet Schedules will appear on the SeniorsGold.com web site IF you send them to Frank Lanza. Frank says that our web site receives several "hits" weekly and to help and encourage our Champion quartets he will post a schedule of shows that will be of interest to the Barbershop world. Quartets wishing to have their schedule published should forward this information to Frank at Seanote4@aol.com. If you have sent your schedule to GREY MATTERS Frank will pick up the information and have it listed on SeniorsGold.com.

The Jurassic Larks in Flight

Victor Neilsen, Tenor 1998

Not only have the Larks been in the air, but we were ON the air in November. While performing at the Sweet Adelines show in Spirit Lake Iowa with the lovely Northern Lights and Take Note quartets, we were discovered by the local radio host "Rambo" and he invited us to do a show on Sunday morning. And so we did, as "alive" as four old dinosaurs can be early on a Sunday morning. And we have a non-commercial CD to prove it. It's "Live on Campus" at Class 104, University of Okoboji. Thirty minutes of songs and chatter about being a Senior quartet, as if we had good sense. And what a great time we had at the show and afterglow, in our Okoboji University, College of Music T-shirts.

We also spent time IN the air, flying to Albuquerque with the Lady Larks to attend the Midwinter Convention. We enjoyed singing with the AISQC chorus and we welcomed the 2003 champs, The Barons, into our group, adding four (that's FOUR) new members.

Now the Larks are looking ahead to the 2003 season. After doing our bit for the chorus, singing "Valentines", we'll see you all in Dennison Iowa on 3-29, in Willmar, Mn. (we hope) on 4-5 and in Papillion, Ne. on 6-14. We still have lots of good open dates, so if your quartet had to cancel or you want to hear your audiences LAUGH, give us a call. We'll treat you "reasonably".

Letter to the Larks

Dear Jurassic Larks,

I wanted to pass along a good story to you. My name is Mike Cook and in the summer of 2000 I was the assistant baseball coach at Urbandale High School. We had just finished a dreadful two games up in Fort Dodge to take our record to a not so wonderful 12 wins and 13 losses (very unusual for UHS).

We stopped in Webster City to let the kids eat at the McDonalds only because we had promised them and there were these four guys sitting there in the brightest colored leisure suits I had ever seen. As you can guess we were not in a very good mood going into the McDonalds due to our team not playing nearly up to the standards we had set for ourselves. So we are all upset and there you guys sit.

Coach Barton (the head coach) and myself stood there for a good five minutes contemplating whether or not to come over to you guys to see why you were dressed in those beautiful leisure suits but we were a little afraid that it might be your normal attire and we didn't want to offend you. Well luckily for us your leader, I believe approached us and asked us where we were from and to our surprise you had graduated from Urbandale a FEW? years ago. You told us about where the school used to be and the ball field etc which was very neat to learn.

Well then before you left you asked us if you could sing us a song and I forcefully answered "YES please" (we needed something to lift our spirits) and you guys proceeded to sing your version of "Yesterday."

Well needless to say I sat there laughing so hard I had to put napkins over my face to stop the stream of tears, I couldn't breathe and I thought my food was going to come up.

Anyway I thought you might like to know that after that evening all of our cosmic stars were aligned because we never lost again -- 21 wins in a row and Urbandale HS first baseball state championship. Coach Barton and I still talk about that incident to this day as the turning point of our season.

Now to my Question. On Thanksgiving night I was watching television in Iowa City at some relatives house and as I flipped through the channels who do you think I see, "The Jurassic Larks" a tape of you anyway singing at the senior center. There was a name to contact to get a tape but it went by so fast I didn't have a chance to get it down so I thought I would search the internet and I obviously have found you.

Is there anyway I could get two tapes of any of your performances? I would like to give one to Coach Barton for Christmas and of course have one for myself.

Thank You so much for the wonderful memory.

Sincerely, Mike Cook, Head Baseball Coach, Southwestern Community College

OverTime's Doins' They recently completed a CD which has been doing well. Several shows have been sung and a few are in the wings....

1/11/03 Bridge Town Sound chapter show in Portland.

1/17-18/03 Annual QCED Show in Seaside, Oregon

Jan 03 AISQC show and Mid-Winter convention, Albuquerque, NM

4/5/03 Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters - Hillsboro, Oregon

5/3-4/2003 Gold Coast Chapter, Coos Bay, Oregon

5/16-18/03 Division Contest, Medford, Oregon

6/8/2003 Unity of the Valley Church, Eugene, Oregon

A bicycle can't stand alone because it's two-tired.

What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.

She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.

Those who jump off a Paris bridge are inSeine.

Minutes of AISQC Meeting January 24, 2003

The annual meeting of AISQC was called to order by President Pete Tyree at approximately 0845.

President Pete then called for the report of the nominating committee chaired by Immediate Past President, Dick Bek. Dick informed us that Dick Whitehouse, Bill Thurmon and Darryl Cremer had been nominated for the position of two-year delegate. Jim Richards interjected that AISQC does not have delegates only board members. Dick was duly fined \$5. Pete then called for the full slate of officers for 2003 but Dick did not have the list and was summarily fined an additional \$5 by permanent Sargent at arms Ray Henders for being so disorganized. Dick then interactively fabricated the 2003 slate of officers by asking each existing officer if they would agree to serve another year. President Tyree said you could have his job but eventually agreed to do it again so he could recover the \$680 he shelled out for the AISQC breakfast. Vice President, Doug Watson agreed to serve another year as did Treasurer, Rudy Zarlino and Secretary, Dan Tangarone. Mel Knight and Dave Ewing, were elected in January 2002 as two-year board members and remain on the board through 2003. Dick Bek asked if the new two year board members would be voted on and Pete reminded him that he previously stated that the vote would be at the end of the meeting. Dick was fined another \$5 for not listening, bringing his total to \$15.

President Tyree then asked for corrections or additions to the 2002 minutes. The 2002 minutes were unanimously accepted.

Rings and Things Dick Bek

Dick reported that the AISQC rings are done and several AISQC members have purchased them from the Effenmeyer Co in Milwaukee. Dick asked that AISQC members consider obtaining a ring by dealing directly with the Effenmeyer Co. Dick mentioned that the new ribbons for the Gold Silver and Bronze medals have been made up and purchased by the society for the first, second and third place medals to be given out through 2007. The old ribbon for the gold medal is no longer available. The existing new ribbon is about 1.25 inches wide with a sparkling silver stripe. The board decided in the board meeting of 1/23/03 that the ribbon should be a maximum of 1 inch wide with a 1/2 inch gray stripe in the center. Dick will pursue obtaining a source for the new ribbons. The new bar will be given out without the year engraved. The quartets will be responsible for engraving the year on the bar to save the engraving costs.

Pete mentioned that the society board has approved providing medals for the top five places in the Senior contest and will announce the top five quartets this year in Albuquerque. Medals and ribbons will be mailed to the 4 and 5th place 2003 Senior Medalists when available.

Buzz Haeger reported that George Evans is in very poor health. Our thoughts are with him.

Ribbons have previously been made for the top 3 medalists through the year 2007. First place is blue with a gray stripe, Second is red with a gray stripe and Third is white with a gray stripe.

Dick Whitehouse suggested that all bars be made up at the same time. Dick Bek will check if this is feasible from a cost standpoint.

Bob Squires reported that two Districts are still not in compliance with the C&J recommendation that all senior prelims be held in the ball. This will be discussed in the Society board meeting today. Vince Yinger wondered how quartets got into the Seniors contest, with no scores. Lots of BS on this. Not sure why this subject was even being discussed but lots of BS.

Honorary Members -- Jim Richards reported that the board came up with a paragraph for changing the By-Laws. AISQC Board on Thursday 1/23/03 approved the paragraph that Jim came up with. Jim read the paragraph. It is inserted here.

Any AISQC member may nominate in writing to the President, the name of a potential candidate for Member of Merit of the AISQC. The

Albuquerque Show Report

Reed Sampson

I truly hope that all of you felt a tremendous sense of pride when the curtain closed on the AISQC show Friday afternoon. More important, I pray you heard as many compliments as I did from those who were in the audience. You have my utmost gratitude for the outstanding performance you delivered.

After we overcame the unexpected – a disconnected microphone cable and a disappearing MC – the show ran like the proverbial clock. We brought it in on time and with no dead spots.

In my report to the membership at our breakfast Friday morning, I indicated that the show was designed with “pace” in mind – that it was meant to keep moving and give the audience the very best in entertainment. I am convinced that our performance lived up to those expectations.

In putting the show together, my primary thinking and concern was focused on the entertainment value of the performance for the audience. Quality, variety and pace (that word again) are the essential elements in such a performance.

With just a three-song repertoire, the chorus did not have a huge task in bringing them together in less than four hours of rehearsal. And, under the skillful direction of our own barbershop legend Joe Liles, you sang wonderfully well. The opening medley, with three quartet breaks, was a really tasty start to the show.

Quartets interspersed with the rest of the chorus tunes repeatedly put something different in front of the audience. The marvelous performance by Rendezvous was a brilliant closer for the first half. Incidentally, I’ve heard from Rendezvous and they tell me they, too, heard many wonderful comments about the show and their performance, and have also had several show bid offers.

In the second half, two gold medal quartets – our champion Chicago Shuffle and “junior” champion Four Voices -- leading up to the chorus finale, “That Old Quartet Of Mine,” had to have left the audience nearly breathless. (Do you get as emotional as I do when you sing that song?)

I’ve said all of that to cause you to think about your part in the overall performance – and to consider what audiences expect when they pay their money for a ticket. (I suspect you have the same sort of expectations when you go to a show.)

I believe that our first obligation is to the audience. Therefore, our first commitment must be to meet that obligation. We come to the show to do our part to ensure that it gives the audience what they expect: first-class entertainment. Guest performers (such as Rendezvous and Four Voices) are vital in producing a great show. Each man does his part as a performer, be it chorus singer or quartet member, to help make the show an entertainment success.

There are measurements of how well we do in all of that: audience reaction during and after the show. In Albuquerque, both were convincingly strong and positive indicators of our success. The comments were not just folks being polite. They were genuine compliments. To my thinking, they speak volumes to the entertainment value of our show, “Memories Are Made Of This.”

There is a growing sentiment that the Society needs to honor the value and contributions of the AISQC more, especially by supporting the midwinter show. We have an uphill struggle to achieve that goal. However, I don’t believe we can ever achieve that goal unless we can continue to produce a show that gets the kind of audience reaction we had in Albuquerque. We have to create our own credibility if we are to prevail with the Society leadership.

While all of our champion quartets are excellent performers and talented entertainers, we must be honest and face the reality that we, individually or collectively, are not a strong enough draw to bring the audience to the show. We simply must have guest performers of the highest caliber to make the show work and put people in the auditorium seats.

As we look ahead and plan for the Biloxi convention and show, I trust that the AISQC Board of Directors and members will consider these comments in the spirit in which they are offered: to advance the AISQC and especially the AISQC midwinter convention show.

I will close by again expressing my deepest thanks for the outstanding performance you delivered in Albuquerque. It was my privilege and pleasure to serve as chairman of the 2003 show. It will be a special “memory” for me.

Minutes 2003, Continued

full text of the new wording will be published in Gray Matters. A vote will be taken next year at the annual meeting in Biloxi.

Johnny Hammond. Any limit of members? Lots of discussion. It will depend upon the wisdom of the Board of Directors and the entire group to limit Members of Merit so that the character of the organization will not change. The number might be in the 5-6 percent range. Wisdom will prevail. Dick Whitehouse pointed out that we shouldn’t have to go looking for people -- the meritorious people we want will rise to the top and only a few will be voted in. The wisdom of the Board and group will prevail to maintain the character of the group.

Endowment Fund Rudy Zarlino reported on the AISQC Endowment fund since Frank Lanza could not be in Albuquerque due to his prostate cancer. Rudy read the purpose of the AISQC endowment fund.

Statement of funds as of 12/31/02 \$4365.76. Funds donated after 9/31/02 have increased the total to close to \$5000. The purpose of the endowment fund is to provide funds to support beneficial, charitable and educational purposes and programs of the AISQC. Earned income only can be used for these purposes. At all times the principal will remain intact. The dollar amount to be donated to the Harmony Foundation was discussed in the Board meeting held on Thursday. A final motion was made to donate \$100 from the AISQC general fund to the Keep the Melody Ringing fund within the Harmony Foundation for a deceased member. It was voted to donate \$100 for Burt Staffen and Ken Pacetti to the Keep the Melody Ringing Fund. In the future, Rudy will write a check to the Keep The Melody Ringing Fund for each deceased member. It was noted that the Harmony Foundation does not provide AISQC with a statement of the earnings that the AISQC Endowment fund generates and therefore AISQC does not know how much monies could be used for qualified purposes. The Harmony Foundation should provide AISQC with a statement at least annually which shows the principal and earnings. Rudy read Section 4 of Article 7 (AISQC Endowment Fund) ---- “The treasurer (of AISQC) shall be responsible for serving as a liaison between the Harmony Foundation and the Board Of Directors (of AISQC) with regard to the fund management and performance and the funding of grants.” “The treasurer (of AISQC) will report to the (AISQC) membership at the annual meeting the status of the Endowment Fund as reported by the Harmony Foundation

A motion was made by Dick Bek and passed unanimously to authorize the AISQC treasurer to donate \$100 immediately upon the death of an AISQC member to the Keep The Melody Ringing Fund in the name of the deceased member.

We need a statement from Harmony Foundation to show the amount of principal and interest earned so AISQC knows how much could be used for qualified purposes.

Rudy noted that two AISQC members have not paid their dues. After considerable discussion, the Board

Minutes 2003, Continued

decided that the Treasurer, after checking the delinquent member's Society membership status, should send a letter to the greater than 6 months dues delinquent member indicating that his AISQC membership is in jeopardy. The member must immediately pay the delinquent dues or be dropped from membership in AISQC. (If a dues paid AISQC member is no longer a Society member, is he still a member of AISQC?)

The treasurer's report was accepted.

Grif complimented Dick Merritt on his many years of prior service to AISQC as treasurer.

President Tyree indicated that an audit of the AISQC books is needed. After some arm twisting, Dick Merritt volunteered to audit the books.

Joe Liles quickly noted that Dick Merritt was a man of merit. (Lengthy moans) Henders quickly went for the jugular and fined Joe \$5.

Reed Sampson, show chairman, reported on the upcoming show which is timed to come in under 2 hours. It should be great. Talent fee is modest.

Dave Ewing, a fine Texas resident, volunteered to be the contact for the AISQC incorporation papers in Texas.

Buzz Heager pointed out that the Albuquerque Mid-Winter convention program only listed the AISQC show on one line. Very little publicity is given to the AISQC show.

Tangarone suggested that AISQC continue to persue inclusion of the AISQC show ticket as part of the Mid-Winter registration.

The New Mexicords chorus sold tickets to our show per Dick Bek. We should thank them for their efforts.

Dick Whitehouse pointed out that various meetings are always scheduled during our show time. It would be better if no meetings were scheduled during the AISQC show to allow everyone to attend our show.

Bill Thurmon and Dick Whitehouse were elected to serve on the Board through 2004.

Pete Tyree asked for a vote on the slate of officers presented. The motion to accept the slate passed unanimously.

Pete Tyree asked that our new champs, Chicago Shuffle, sing the song that will be sung on the show. It was quickly apparent that the learning tapes could have been studied to a greater degree. At least two of those present were reasonably polite. After a long, dreary introduction, an attempt was made to sing Precious Lord Take My Hand. They were afforded the usual level of respect.

The meeting quickly evolved into chaos and then we were gone.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Tangarone, Secretary

Article IV - Associate Membership (Proposed)

Jim Richards

All underlined words are new. All non underlined words represent the original text. This is the proposed wording which will be voted on in Biloxi at the annual meeting and represents the consensus thinking and discussion during the meeting in Albuquerque.

Section 1: Society policy requires that an active International Senior Champion Quartet must have as active members at least three of the original members it had when it won its Championship to continue use of the quartet name and championship rank. Any man who is recognized as a permanent replacement for a member of an active International Senior Champion Quartet is eligible for associate membership in the Association. Associate Membership of Merit may be conferred as provided in Section 7 below.

Section 2: Associate membership may be conferred by a vote of the general membership at its Annual Meeting, with a maximum of two (2) dissenting votes permitted

Section 3: An Associate Member must be a Society member in good standing.

Section 4: An Associate Member shall not be eligible to move, second, or vote on Association matters, nor shall he be eligible to hold any office in the Association or serve as a Board Member of the Association. An Associate Member may, however, if appointed, serve on an AISQC committee in any capacity except Chairman.

Section 5: Unless qualifying for Permanent Associate Membership Status under Section 6, below, an Associate Member's membership in the Association shall terminate immediately when: a. he is no longer a member of an active International Senior Champion Quartet, b. the International Senior Champion Quartet of which he was a member either disbands or replaces more than two original members (thereby losing the right to use the quartet name and championship rank), or, c. does not meet the requirements of Section 3 of this Article or Article VIII, Section 1.

Section 6: Permanent Associate Membership Status, subject to compliance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 3, and Article VIII, Section 1, and the limitations of Article IV, Section 4, may be conferred upon a past Associate Member whose membership has terminated, or upon a current Associate Member whose membership may terminate, by a vote of the general membership, provided: a. he has performed in an active International Senior Quartet for a minimum of one (1) year, and b. he is nominated in writing by a member of the International Senior Quartet with which he qualifies, and c. the nominating member makes his nomination in writing to the President of the association at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual Meeting, and d. no more than two (2) dissenting votes are received upon the general membership's consideration of the nomination at its Annual Meeting.

Section 7: Associate Membership of Merit

Any AISQC member as defined in Article III may nominate a candidate(s) by submitting the name(s) of potential candidate(s) to be considered as Member(s) of Merit of AISQC to the President in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. Each candidate's nomination should be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Each nominee must be: a. A Society Member in good standing, and b. At least sixty (60) years of age.

The President shall present the names of all suggested candidates to the AISQC Board Of Directors for their consideration. The name(s) and supporting credentials of candidate(s) who have, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, made meritorious contributions to the furtherance of the goals of the AISQC, shall be presented at the annual AISQC meeting for a vote of the AISQC membership. To be accepted as a Member Of Merit a nominee must receive a unanimous ballot.

Members of Merit are not expected to pay annual AISQC dues.

GRAY MATTERS

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

